

# A Kids' Whodunit in Washington State

A Selected Bibliography of Mysteries Set in the Evergreen State

Compiled by Kathryn Hamilton Wang  
August 2006

**Washington State Library**  
Office of the Secretary of State  
6880 Capitol Boulevard South, Tumwater, WA  
<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/>

This bibliography is a small subset of the 32 page “Whodunit in Washington State: A Selected Bibliography of Mysteries Set in the Evergreen State” issued in July 2006. The original bibliography grew out of Washington State Librarian Jan Walsh’s desire to select mysteries set in Washington State for one of her seasonal *Washington Reads* lists.

Books are listed by author and then alphabetically by title. Pseudonyms are noted when known. If a book is part of a series, the main character and the sequence number of the book are noted. When an entire series does not take place in Washington State, an indication of what portion of the series takes place in the state is given by phrases such as “some of the series is set in Washington State,” “most of the series is set in Washington State,” or “others in the series are not set in Washington State.” The primary setting of the plot must be in Washington for it to be included in this list, so not all titles in a series are listed. Also, books which begin with a Washington character who then goes elsewhere for the majority of the book are not included. Some authors write stand-alone mysteries as well as series mysteries. If a book is not part of a series but is written by a mystery writer who is known for a series, it is noted with the phrase “not part of a series.”

The State Library’s fiction is classified in its Dewey 800s collection. Using Dewey sometimes results in the splitting up of an author’s works. Those published during and after 2000 are usually in 813.6, while those published before 1999 are usually in 813.54. The call numbers for some books are being updated. Please check the Washington State Library catalog [www.secstate.wa.gov/library/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/) to see if a book’s call number has changed.

Some titles have annotations in quotes. These annotations are from the Washington State Library’s online catalog record.

NW prefixed books are available for checkout and interlibrary loan. Rare and R (Reference) prefixed books are available at the State Library in Tumwater for in library use. The R books are shelved in the historic reference collection.

*WR* denotes a book selected previously by Washington State Librarian Jan Walsh for her *Washington Reads* program. These books were selected for other themes as noted, but they also happen to be mysteries. To read Ms. Walsh’s comments about a book go to: [www.secstate.wa.gov/library/wa\\_reads.aspx/](http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/wa_reads.aspx/). Her comments can also be found by clicking on the *Washington Reads* link in the record for the book in the Library’s online catalog.

Bennett, Jay. **Skinhead: A Novel.** F. Watts, 1991. 139 p.

NW 813.54 BENNETT 1991

“A plea from a dying man he has never seen before involves nineteen-year-old Jonathan in a life-and-death struggle with white-supremacist skinheads.”

Calamity Jan. See Pierson, Jan.

Capeci, Anne. **Danger, Dynamite!** Illustrated by Paul Casale. Peachtree Publishers, 2003. 127 p.

NW 813.6 CAPECI 2003

#1 in the Cascade Mountain Railroad Mysteries series.

“Ten-year-old Billy, his best friend Finn, and a girl named Dannie, living in a 1920’s camp of railroad workers in the Cascade Mountains, follow clues to try to uncover the relationship of a stolen crate of dynamite and gold taken during an 1893 train robbery.”

Capeci, Anne. **Daredevils.** Illustrated by Paul Casale. Peachtree, 2004. 111 p.

NW 813.6 CAPECI 2004

#2 in the Cascade Mountain Railroad Mysteries series.

“During the 1920’s Billy, Finn, and Dannie, living in a railroad workers camp in the Cascade Mountains, encounter Finn’s air show pilot uncle, endure a troublemaking new boy, and stand up to smugglers.”

Capeci, Anne. **Ghost Train.** Illustrations by Paul Casale. Peachtree Publishers, 2004. 123 p.

NW 813.6 CAPECI 2004

#3 in the Cascade Mountain Railroad Mysteries series.

“When Billy finds a burlap sack containing a pistol and a cryptic, threatening note, he and his best friends Dannie and Finn avoid rehearsals for the town’s historical pageant while trying to learn who holds a grudge and is plotting against the railroad.”

Capeci, Anne. **Missing!** Illustrated by Paul Casale. Peachtree, 2005. 116 p.

NW 813.6 CAPECI 2005

#4 in the Cascade Mountain Railroad Mysteries series.

“During the 1920’s, as Billy, Finn, and Dannie investigate a series of thefts in a railroad workers camp, they also find themselves searching for Billy’s missing cousin, nine-year-old Mim.”

Dereske, Jo. **Bookmarked to Die.** Avon Books, 2006. 356 p.

NW 813.6 DERESKE 2006

“Helma Zukas” #9 in the series.

Dereske, Jo. **Final Notice: A Miss Zukas Mystery.** Avon Books, 1998. 228 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1998

“Helma Zukas” #6 in the series.

“When Miss Zukas starts digging in the family archives, she turns up some deadly secrets. Unless she can learn the whole story, the final chapters will be written as a tale of mystery, mayhem, and murder.”

Dereske, Jo. **Miss Zukas and the Island Murders.** Avon Books, 1995. 212 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1995

“Helma Zukas” #2 in the series.

“Twenty years after her high school graduation, an anonymous letter urges Helma to organize a class reunion. Unfortunately, someone is sabotaging her well-laid plans, and soon the old classmates find themselves stranded on a fogbound island with a murderer in their midst.”

Dereske, Jo. **Miss Zukas and the Library Murders.** Avon, 1994. 218 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1994

“Helma Zukas” #1 in the series.

“When a dead body turns up right in the middle of the fiction stacks, librarian Helma Zukas and her best friend Ruth begin sleuthing to solve the case.”

Dereske, Jo. **Miss Zukas and the Raven’s Dance.** Avon Books, 1996. 242 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1996

“Helma Zukas” #4 in the series.

“Murder victim Stanley Plummer has been cataloging a collection of Native American books for Bellehaven’s new Cultural Center when Helma steps in to complete the cataloging and find Plummer’s murderer on the side.”

Dereske, Jo. **Miss Zukas and the Stroke of Death.** Avon Books, 1995. 210 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1995

“Helma Zukas” #3 in the series.

“When a body shows up just outside Ruth’s studio, the police consider Ruth a prime suspect. Helma unearths several local scandals surrounding the victim and finds the real killer.”

Dereske, Jo. **Miss Zukas in Death’s Shadow.** Avon Twilight, 1999. 210 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1999

“Helma Zukas” #7 in the series.

Dereske, Jo. **Miss Zukas Shelves the Evidence.** Avon Books, 2001. 242 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 2001

“Helma Zukas” #8 in the series.

“Helma’s newest neighbor is murdered, and Helma and Police Chief Wayne Gallant work to solve the case. When the chief is nearly killed, a potentially incriminating library book is found near Gallant’s body.

Dereske, Jo. **Out of Circulation: A Miss Zukas Mystery.** Avon Books, 1997. 212 p.

NW 813.54 DERESKE 1997

“Helma Zukas” #5 in the series.

“After aiding in the rescue of a gravely injured man, Helma Zukas and her friend Ruth search for the victim’s missing companion and are stranded in a snowstorm with a group of strangers, one of whom is a killer.”

Fulton, Reed. **The Grand Coulee Mystery: A Story of the Engineers.** Doubleday, 1952, c1941. 284 p.

RARE 813.52 FULTON 1952

Fulton, Reed. **The Powder Dock Mystery.** Doubleday & Page Company, 1927. 325 p.

RARE 813.52 FULTON 1927

Harris, Jana. **The Pearl of Ruby City.** St. Martin’s Press, 1998. 354 p.

NW 813.54 HARRIS 1998

~~WR~~ Hobbs, Will. **Ghost Canoe**. Morrow Junior Books, 1997. 195 p.

NW 813.54 HOBBS 1997; R 813.54 HOBBS 1997

Winner of a Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Allan Poe Award.

"Fourteen-year-old Nathan, fishing with the Makah in the Pacific Northwest, finds himself holding a vital clue when a mysterious stranger comes to town looking for Spanish treasure."

Washington State Librarian Jan Walsh chose this book as part of her *Washington Reads* fall 2003 selections. Her theme was "Life in Washington Territory."

Johnson, Jan G. **Orcas Island Mystery**. Review and Herald Pub. Association, 1998. 125 p.

NW 813.54 JOHNSON 1998

"While spending summer vacation with their grandparents on Orcas Island, Washington, fifteen-year-old Julian and his twin sister try to discover who is behind some unusual petty thefts."

Kehret, Peg. **Nightmare Mountain**. Dutton, 1989. 164 p.

NW 813.54 KEHRET 1989

"Twelve-year-old Molly's visit to her aunt and uncle's llama ranch in the state of Washington leads her into unexpected danger and suspense."

McMahan, Ian. **Lake Fear**. Macmillan, 1985. 110 p.

NW 813.54 MCMAHAN 1985

"While investigating the source of a strange disease, Ricky and his computer friend ALEC uncover a case of computer fraud, chemical pollution, and the illegal production of explosives."

Nickerson, Sara. **How to Disappear Completely and Never Be Found**. Illustrated by Sally Wern Comport. HarperCollins, 2002. 281 p.

NW 813.54 NICKERS 2002; R 813.54 NICKERS 2002

"With a swimming medal, the key to a mansion, and a comic book about a half-man/half-rat as her only clues, a twelve-year-old girl seeks the true story of her father's mysterious death four years earlier near an island in the Pacific Northwest."

Phillips, Gary. **Perdition, U.S.A.** John Brown Books, 1996. 255 p.

NW 813.54 PHILLIP 1996

Pierson, Jan [also known as Calamity Jan]. **Ghost of Nighthawk**. WildWest Pub., 2002. 109 p.

NW 813.54 PIERSON 2002; R 813.54 PIERSON 2002

#2 in the Ghost Town Mystery Series. Others in the series are not set in Washington State.

"Friends Meggie and Paige follow clues that send them wandering through Nighthawk and the Similkameen River Valley, Washington in search of treasure—the legendary Haggerty gold."

Roberts, Willo Davis. **Buddy Is a Stupid Name for a Girl**. Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2001. 218 p.

NW 813.6 ROBERTS 2001

"When her father disappears mysteriously on a trucking job, eleven-year-old Buddy moves in with relatives she hardly knows and finds herself in a dysfunctional family with secrets about the past."

Rushford, Patricia H. **Forgotten.** Bethany House Publishers, 2000. 192 p.

NW 813.54 RUSHFOR 2000

“Jennie McGrady” #13 in the series. Some of the series is set in Washington State.

“With no chance to escape from the bank robbers who abducted her in the wilderness of Washington State, sixteen-year-old Jennie watches for a chance to stop the bandits and receives a blow to her head resulting in amnesia.”

Shaw, Janet Beeler. **The Silent Stranger: A Kaya Mystery.** Illustrated by Jean-Paul Tibbles.

Pleasant Company Publications, 2005. 132 p.

NW 813.6 SHAW 2005

“In 1765, the arrival of an injured stranger from another tribe, traveling alone and apparently unable to speak, arouses suspicion in Kaya’s Nez Percé village. Includes glossary and historical notes on the Nez Percé Indians.”

Sjoholm, Barbara [former name Barbara Wilson]. **A Clear Spring.** Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2002. 173 p.

NW 813.6 SJOHOLM 2002

Not part of a series.

“While visiting relatives in Seattle, twelve-year-old Willa explores the ethnic diversity of her family and investigates the pollution of a salmon stream.” Involves eco-sleuthing.